

## **Interim Coalition Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 2, 2007  
**Location:** Frederick County Health Department

**Attendance:** Barbara Brookmyer - present  
William Byrne - absent/excused  
Monica Grant - present  
Pat Hanberry - absent/excused  
Leigh Joos - present  
David Liddle - present  
Margaret Nusbaum - present  
Brian Scott – present (later)  
Mike Spurrier - absent/excused  
Jim Williams – present  
Tom Warner (Prescription Committee) – guest  
Linda Thall (County Attorney's Office) - guest

**Call to Order:** Monica Grant, Facilitator, opened a regular meeting of the Interim Coalition Coordinating Committee at 12:05 p.m.

### **Report from Standing Committees:**

**Affordability** – The Affordability Committee met on January 23rd. Our speaker was Glenn Schneider, Executive Director, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. Glenn summarized the "Health Care for All" initiative in Maryland and outlined the four major points that should be included in any health care legislation, including \$1 tobacco tax on cigarettes, parents' insurance extended to children up to age 25, expansion of Medicaid, and individual fair share mandate. Helen Monk asked Glenn to appear on her TV show, "Health Matters". Pat Hanberry will contact the Western Maryland delegation to get an appointment for members of the group to speak with them about this topic.

Sarah Penna shared that her book and video, "Faces of Maryland's Uninsured" are available for purchase at [www.healthcareforall.com](http://www.healthcareforall.com). They are both fabulous!

Sarah is stepping down as chair of the committee, at least temporarily. Phil and Pat will help to fill the gap.

**Availability** – Brenda Lee has resigned as chair of the Availability Committee. Leigh Joos is the new chair. Met January 24<sup>th</sup> investigating different ways to expand access and what is out there currently. February 21<sup>st</sup> next meeting

**Prescriptions** - Presentation by Tom Werner – Web Based Prescription Information Resource. Consensus was that this is a very useful resource. Recommendation:

Address short term and long-term location of resource on web. Tom Werner invited to make a presentation at the next Coalition meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup>, of this product and description of current problems.

**Needs Assessment** – Request to award contract scheduled to be heard by BOCC later this month.

**Meeting of the Entire Coalition:** Next Coalition meeting to be held March 14 at FMH. Additional details to be distributed shortly to all members.

**Conflict of Interest Concerns:**

Linda Thall attended as a guest to address questions that were posed to the ICCC. She indicated that she was providing general guidelines only as she cannot speak for the Ethics Commission. The focus is on prevention of even the appearance of a conflict of interest. Responses to inquiries are fact driven for each case.

Linda Thall from the County Attorney's Office addressed Mike Spurrier's earlier question of the Open Meetings Act and its application to the ICCC and future executive body. The answer depends on several factors including determining if the group is a "public body". The government must officially create it for it to be considered a public body. Since this is not a county created entity (BOCC approves by-laws) and it's not a county appointed group then the Open Meetings Act would not apply.

Linda Thall also addressed Mike Spurrier's second concern about the participation of county staff. Ethics Ordinance primarily 2 provisions (E) and (H) apply –

1. County employees may not serve as officers but can be a member of a board of directors.
2. County and State employees may not participate in fundraising for a private entity, although assistance in preparing a request for grant funding may be permitted if it is a usual and customary part of the employee's county job.
3. A county department can pay dues if by-laws require membership of that agency as it may be legitimate to pay and if serving as a representative of the county agency it may be okay.
4. County employees can not make decisions about fundraising for a private entity
5. Open meeting laws would not apply to coalition because it is not a public body

The question was asked - What if the Coalition is requested to submit a letter of support and a county employee serves on the decision making board? Linda Thall's response was that there may be a conflict especially if not part of usual and customary part of job. Monica Grant to provide Linda Thall with more information about how grant proposals may be drafted and submitted.

**Bylaws Discussion:** Monica Grant to send one more draft after adding most recent comments. Goal is to finalize at the next meeting.

**Announcement:** Mike Spurrier sent an e-mail indicating his intention to resign from the ICC.

**Schedule for Future ICC Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 12:00- 1:30pm. The next meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Recorder – Barbara Brookmyer